

THE GOLD-HEADED CANE. William Macmichael, M.D. A new edition with a foreword by James J. Waring, M.D., and a preface by William J. Kerr, M.D.; containing the text and illustrations of the fifth edition, including the introduction by George C. Peachey and his annotations. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1953. 186 pages, \$6.50.

The original Gold Headed Cane belonged to John Radcliffe, an eminent English physician for whom Radcliffe Library and Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford are named. On his death in 1714 it passed to Richard Mead (d. 1754) and then in succession to Anthony Askew (d. 1774), William Pitcairn (d. 1797), his nephew David Pitcairn (d. 1809), and finally to Matthew Baillie (1761-1823). After Dr. Baillie's death the Cane was presented by his widow to the New College of Physicians and has reposed for many years in the Museum of the Royal College of Physicians in London. It became widely known following the publication in 1827 of *The Gold-Headed Cane* by an anonymous author, soon identified as Dr. William Macmichael. The work was so popular that a second edition was issued in 1828, and later ones in 1884, 1915, 1923, 1932 and—the present seventh edition—in 1953. It consists of biographies, told in the first person by the Cane, of the five owners, and contains a great deal of material of historical interest concerning the men themselves, their contemporaries and times. The five physicians were all highly successful practitioners of medicine, most of whose work centered about St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, and reflected the best medical standards of their times, although none contributed much to medical literature or to scientific advancement. As a group they stand for excellence in the art of medicine, of which the Cane has become a symbol.

In 1939, Dr. William J. Kerr, Professor of Medicine at the University of California Medical School established the ceremony, held annually since then, in which a newly designed Gold Headed Cane is awarded to a member of the graduating class selected by his classmates and by the faculty on the basis of "the student's interest in the welfare of his patients during his entire clinical experience."

The emphasis then is not upon pure scholarship but rather, as Dr. Kerr says in the preface, on the student's promise to become a successful physician, which rests more often "upon his ability to apply knowledge and to express those qualities of heart and hand which endear him to his patients." Honorable mention is given to two other students. At the annual ceremony, a speaker of distinction (the first was the late Herbert C. Moffitt) gives an address and is himself presented with a replica of the Cane.

The present volume is attractively printed and bound. It contains a foreword by James J. Waring, a preface by Dr. Kerr, and an introduction by George C. Peachey, giving additional biographical material on the five owners of the Old Cane. For medical educators and other physicians interested in the historical aspects of medicine, this work should be a valuable acquisition.

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THE SCALP IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. Howard T. Behrman, A.B., M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School. With 312 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1952. 566 pages, \$12.75.

In this handsomely bound and well-printed book, Dr. Behrman presents a distinctive addition to the dermatologic literature. The 540 pages of text are interspersed with 312 photographs and drawings, many of which are quite unusual and all of which are pertinent and instructive. Since the text was written by a single author, it enjoys the advantage of a consistent literary style. Dr. Behrman's writing is quite lucid and oftentimes somewhat restrained

in that the findings and opinions of others are fairly presented without strong condemnation or recommendation. The entire contents of the book are concerned with the hair and scalp and are divided into nine chapters and an appendix. The first chapter has in addition to Embryology, Anatomy, and Physiology of the hair and scalp, an interesting section concerning the anthropological considerations of hair form and distribution. Chapter two discusses the normal care of the scalp along with the action of some of the constituents of hair dressing preparations. Chapter three, labeled Alopecia, is perhaps one of the most useful in the book, for in one chapter many different aspects and opinions concerning the various forms of Alopecia are considered at length. The fourth chapter is a short one about Seborrhea and the Seborrheic diatheses. The fifth chapter labeled Infections covers the known infections usually found in the scalp, and many of those that only occasionally or indirectly are manifested in the scalp. Chapter six is cautiously labeled Scalp Disorders of Psychogenic Origin (Proved or Presumptive).

The last chapter on Neoplasms is as inclusive in its subject matter as the other chapters. Preceding an adequate index is the interesting and useful appendix containing 243 formulae of various hair and scalp preparations arranged as to the type of preparation, i.e.: shampoos, lotions, etc. In many instances the name of the originator is given with his particular formula, adding to the interest and historical value of the section. At a glance of the appropriate section one can see the similarity of the various modifications that have been used and select the particular variation most suited to the needs at hand. However, the formulary does not contain some of the more recent preparations that have been described. This book is a valuable addition to any dermatologic library and adding to its usefulness is the large classified bibliography that is found at the end of each chapter.

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THE PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS—Correlation of Physical Signs with Physiologic and Pathologic Changes in Disease. Simon S. Leopold, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, School of Medicine and Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. With a Chapter on Sounds for the Thorax: Acoustic Principles by S. Reid Warren, Jr., Sc.D. in E.E., Professor of Electrical Engineering, Moore School of Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania. 390 illustrations, 10 Color Plates. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 430 pages, \$7.50.

It is the firm belief of the author "that the principles and methods of physical diagnosis should be taught by correlating physical signs with physiologic and pathologic changes in disease." With this in mind, he has compiled a very workable textbook for the second year student.

He has made maximum use of illustrations, gathering together a comprehensive group of photographs, some in full color, drawings and roentgenograms. In many cases, these serve as part of the text, and the reading matter, while entirely adequate, is pared down to the essentials. The book is well—and simply—organized and the table of contents provides a ready reference. The chapter on The History has been placed at the end of the book with the idea that history-taking, as such, should not begin until the student can correlate some knowledge of disease seen at the bedside with the preclinical sciences.

There is an interesting chapter on acoustic principles related to sounds from the thorax, and the line drawings illustrating muscle testing are especially informative.

This book can be well recommended to second year medical students and to teachers of medicine. It may also be used as a reference by the physician in practice.